

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN

DOD/ISA - MR. ABRAMOWITZ

PM - MR. JAMES

L/PM - MR. MICHEL

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

WHITE HOUSE -

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SN, US

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE REQUEST FOR SECONDMENT OF USAF OFFICERS

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 2570 B. SINGAPORE 2165

1. WE HAVE STUDIED GOS REQUEST FOR SECONDMENT OF USAF OFFICERS. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, THIS REQUEST WOULD HAVE USG VIRTUALLY RUNNING THE RSAF, IN BOTH COMMAND AND STAFF CAPACITIES. "SECONDMENT" AS SUCH IS NOT AN AMERICAN PRACTICE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DETAILED OFFICERS ON AN EX-CHANGE BASIS WITH ALLIED ARMED SERVICES. THERE ARE LEGAL RESTRICTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE OPERATIVE IN "SECONDMENT" AREA AS WELL. BASICALLY, HOWEVER, IT IS A COMMONWEALTH CONCEPT WHICH WE GENERALLY DO NOT FAVOR AND WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED BY CONGRESS.

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2. WE AGREE HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD EXPRESS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF GOS NEEDS IN THIS AREA IN A PRACTICAL WAY. WE WANT TO AVOID CREATION OF AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT; RSAF SELF-SUFFICIENCY SHOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE. WE ARE AC-

CORDINGLY, PREPARED AS REF A SUGGESTED TO SEND A SMALL USAF TEAM TO SINGAPORE TO STUDY RSAF ORGANIZATION AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE. ALTHOUGH "SECONDMENT" AS SUCH WOULD NOT BE A POSSIBILITY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF

ALTERNATIVES THE GOS MIGHT CONSIDER:

A. SINGAPORE WOULD CONTRACT A U.S. FIRM TO PROVIDE MANAGERIAL SKILLS NEEDED (IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE VINNEL CORP. CONTRACT WITH SAUDI ARABIA). THE USG ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS (FMS CASH SALE) COULD PROVIDE LIMITED INITIAL ASSISTANCE OR GUIDANCE TO THE CONTRACTOR TO LAUNCH THE PROJECT. THE USG WOULD NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION. THIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, COULD CAUSE SOME PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS IN CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE.

B. SINGAPORE WOULD HIRE IN CIVILIAN CAPACITY QUALIFIED RETIRED RESERVE U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS POSSESSING SKILLS REQUIRED. (THERE IS A PROSCRIPTION AGAINST RETIRED REGULAR OFFICERS ACCEPTING DIRECT EMPLOYMENT BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BUT ACCORDING TO DOD LEGAL COUNSEL THERE IS SPECIFIC LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PERMIT RESERVISTS TO DO SO UPON APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF THEIR SERVICE). USG WOULD ASSIST IN SCREENING QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS BUT WOULD NOT BE OTHERWISE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION.

C. SINGAPORE WOULD HIRE IN CIVILIAN CAPACITY QUALIFIED RETIRED RESERVE U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS TO MEET SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENT WHILE CONCURRENTLY INSTITUTING A CONUS TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH WOULD DEVELOP LOCAL MANAGERIAL TALENT FOR THE LONG TERM. TRAINING WOULD BE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS (FMS CASH SALE).

D. SINGAPORE WOULD INSTITUTE A CONUS TRAINING PROGRAM ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE REQUIRED CONFIDENTIAL

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MANAGERIAL TALENT FOR THE LONG TERM. WE COULD ALSO ENTERTAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING OUT MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS ON SHORT-TERM BASIS, WITH SPECIFIC TASKS TO PERFORM, IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED AND THE EMBASSY SO RECOMMENDED.

3. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GOS THAT WHILE SECONDMENT IS NOT LIKELY POSSIBILITY, WE HOPE WE CAN MEET THEIR NEEDS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. FYI. THE USAF IS ORGANIZING A TEAM WHICH IS PREPARED TO VISIT SINGAPORE TO CONSULT WITH GOS OFFICIALS WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS AS TO PREFERRED DATES. END FYI. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME GO INTO THE VARIOUS OPTIONS ALTHOUGH YOU CAN, OF

COURSE, TELL GOS WE ARE PREPARED TO SEND TEAM. INGERSOLL

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